

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

MINUTES

May 19, 2017

Veterans' Memorial Auditorium

5825 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 9:40 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

**Present:** Commissioner Strain, Jeanine L. Herrington, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Ronald Petree, Katie R. Sistrunk, Kent Brown, Calvin Viator, and Wilbert "Bill" Waguespack

**Absent:** Richard Muller

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with eight members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Simon introduced the new members of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the November 18, 2016, meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2016, meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

- Mr. Simon updated the board on the Lacassine Industrial Park. A proposal will be presented by Rail Logix later in the meeting regarding Lacassine.

- Mr. Simon notified the board that the Defeasance of Revenue Bond was completed in December.
- Commissioner updated the board on his recent trip to Washington, DC, where he met with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Sonny Perdue, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Director, Scott Pruitt.
- Commissioner Strain also notified the board that he is working with the Louisiana Legislature to refrain from taxing farms.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to accept the Commissioner's Report. It was seconded by Mr. Brown, and passed unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Healthy Food Retail Program**

Mr. Simon updated the board that LAFA will be administering the Healthy Food Retail Program to bring healthy food retail outlets to rural and urban areas where a "food desert" exists.

### **Crop Insurance Enhancement Program (CIEP)**

After meeting with the Louisiana Attorney General's office, LAFA will be unable to proceed with the Crop Insurance Enhancement Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to accept Old Business. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2016 Farm Recovery Grant Program**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker to accept and expend the \$10 million grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development by administering the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program. It was seconded by Mr. Viator, and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Waguespack to grant the Commissioner the authority to proceed with the development of emergency rules for the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously.

### **Delinquent payment owed to LAFA from Louisiana Farm and Agribusiness Loan and Grant Recovery Program recipients**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to turn over all past due files to the Office of Community Development. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously.

**Proposal by Rail Logix to lease property at the Lacassine Industrial Park**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to give Commissioner Strain the authority to proceed with discussions for a leasing agreement with Rail Logix. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously.

**Lease of Property at Woodworth Airport**

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to give Commissioner Strain the authority to negotiate and renew leases at the Woodworth Airport. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Simon informed the Board of the passing of Mr. Robert Guida.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Waguespack, and passed unanimously at 11:35 AM.